

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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Director, Office of Legislative Liaison 20 February 1985

NOTE TO: DCI

o I have re-drafted a statement for the HPSCI session for 9 AM, Thursday, 21 February.

o The IC Staff draft you gave me was, apparently, drafted to cover both the HPSCI and SSCI sessions (it says so).

o It was, in my view, not the right tone or orientation for your initial session

STAT

/s/Charles A. Briggs

Charles A. Briggs

HPSCI Testimony

21 February 1985

9:00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to be with you this morning, to meet for the first time with both new Members and old, and to pledge to you my intention to provide you with the information you need for your oversight responsibilities. I particularly appreciate the chance to share with you some of the issues before us prior to your hearings on the FY86 Intelligence Budget on 27 February.

I view today's session as an opportunity for me to describe briefly for new Members why we do some of the things we do as well as what we do and how we do it. It is also an opportunity for me to pick up, with the old Members, on the Chairman's wish to improve the relationship between the House and the CIA, a goal which I wholeheartedly support.

On the 27th I will have all of the Intelligence Program Managers with me for the Overview of the FY86 Budget. Today I have General Faurer of NSA and two CIA Deputy Directors, Bob Gates, who heads the CIA Production shop, and Clair George, who handles clandestine operations. Among us, we should be able to deal with some of the controversial problem areas of the past

and, hopefully, describe in understandable English for the new Members what our arcane world is. As you see, John McMahon, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is with me also, as is Admiral Al Burkhalter, the Director of my Intelligence Community Staff. John will stay on with General Faurer and Messrs. Gates and George when Admiral Burkhalter and I have to leave at 10:15 for a budget session with the SSCI.

A very quick word on the DCI and the Intelligence Community. Historically the Director of Central Intelligence has worn two hats: one as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the second as the President's principle intelligence advisor, responsible for overall management of the Intelligence Community, and specifically for presenting to the Congress the so-called National Foreign Intelligence Program budget.

The Intelligence Community consists of the CIA; several Department of Defense components, including, in their entirety, the National Security Agency at Fort Meade (which General Faurer heads), the Defense Intelligence Agency (headed by General Jim Williams), the National Reconnaissance Office (headed by Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Pete Aldrich), and intelligence components of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. It also includes intelligence organizations within the Department of State, the FBI and the Departments of Energy and the Treasury. The Intelligence Community Staff, headed by Admiral Burkhalter, gives me staff support for my Intelligence Community responsibilities.

Since I want to ensure that there is time for us to get to know one another a bit better with regard to some of the more complex and, in some cases, controversial areas, let me note in sort of topic sentence format some items, suggesting that the Chairman might then wish to see whether the Members want to engage me in some dialogue. The others here could then elaborate a bit on their roles, or help me with answers while I

To begin with, under the present Administration, I have, in effect, a third function, not borne by my DCI predecessors: namely that of Cabinet attendee. This, along with the general access I am fortunate enough to have with the President, enables the CIA and the Community to get instant feedback and to know whether we're on track or not. The penalty, if you will for this Cabinet access, is the periodic allegation of politicizing the product.

STAT The most important product submitted by a DCI to the President and others is the National Estimate. (Briefly describe how one is produced). You are aware from press reports of allegations that an estimate has been politicized. The most recent case is that on which has been quoted. (Describe the facts.)

STAT Covert action has obviously been the most controversial subject over the past couple of years. Covert action (CA) has a number of parts, ranging from propaganda insertions in media to paramilitary activity. This latter is, always has been and always will be, the most potentially difficult of CA activities. At the high point of the cold war, some 55% of the CIA budget went to CA; during the Church and Pike Committee investigations it dropped to or below 2%. It can never substitute for policy. It must

always be used sparingly. What I hope is that we can debate it out of public headlines. If, in the end, the Congress cannot accept a particular NSC-mandated CA activity by CIA, there is a mechanism within the House rules for the Committee to use.

Leaks are a matter of great concern to me, regardless of which branch of government they come from. We are seeking legislation to constrain the federal employee who is cleared for access to classified information. A challenge for all of us is to find better ways to address public issues without unauthorized use of classified information and, particularly, compromise of sensitive sources and methods. I cannot, for example, provide the Committee's staff with names of individual agents, or with certain sensitive foreign liaison arrangements. If in the opinion of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member there is a compelling need to discuss such sources, I or the DDCI stand ready to do so, but no one else in CIA is authorized to do so.

Narcotics and terrorism are subjects of vital importance and considerable emotional content. It behooves us to ensure that the Committee understands the realities of efforts to penetrate, with human sources and technical devices, the organizations involved.

On a non-emotional but very complex and costly level is intelligence processing, the bridge between collection and analysis. It involves the marriage of ADP and communication's technologies and is now integral to all phases of intelligence. Smart planning and implementation of computer-supported systems will change the way we do business, just as surely as such systems are changing the rate of social evolution in the nation as a whole.

Finally, let me note that the Committee should understand, and I would hope support the use of, the special authorities that the CIA Act of 1949 gives to the DCI with regard to personnel management and the use of monies to ensure secure, flexible contracting and procurement and the acquisition and retention of a top quality staff.

I thank you Mr. Chairman and welcome questions or comment.